

## Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00

SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SCS-03 SCA-01 CU-02 SCCT-01

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DRAFTED BY AF/P:JMPOPE:ADR

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AF/C - MR. STRAND

AF/E - MISS SHIPPY

S/PRS - MR. FUNSETH

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O P 262232Z JUN 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS:PINS, CASC (SMUTS,BARBARA),(SMITH,KENNETH STEPHEN),

(HUNTE', CARRIE JANE)

SUBJ KIDNAPPED AMERICANS: JUNE 26TH PRESS BRIEFING

ADDIS FOR ASSISTANTSECRETARYDAVIS

1. THE FOLLOWING GUIDANCE WAS PREPARED FOR USE BY  
DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN AT JUNE 26 PRESS BRIEFING (SPOKESMAN  
USED GUIDANCE DURING Q AND A AT BRIEFING):

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Q. WHO FOULED UP THE OPERATION THE OTHER NIGHT ON LAKE  
TANGANYIKA THAT MIGHT HAVE RESULTED IN THE RELEASE OF THE  
KIDNAPPED STUDENTS?

A. I STILL DON'T HAVE THE DETAILS ON WHAT ACTUALLY OCCURRED, BUT I WANT TO EMPHASIZE TWO POINTS: CONTRARY TO PRESS REPORTS, NO U.S. DIPLOMATS WERE INVOLVED. AND WE HAVE NO REASON TO BELIEVE THAT THE ACTION REPORTEDLY TAKEN BY ZAIRE FORCES WAS INTENDED TO OBSTRUCT ANY ATTEMPT TO SECURE THE RELEASE OF THE STUDENTS. ALSO CONTRARY TO SOME PRESS REPORTS, THE GOVERNMENTS OF BOTH ZAIRE AND TANZANIA HAVE BEEN VERY HELPFUL IN THIS DIFFICULT SITUATION. THAT PART OF LAKE TANGANYIKA IS AN AREA OF CONSIDERABLE SMUGGLING AND BANDITRY, AND THERE ARE CONTINUING EFFORTS TO REDUCE THIS ILLEGAL ACTIVITY.

Q. HOW HAS ZAIRE BEEN HELPFUL?

A. I DON'T THINK GOING INTO DETAILS AT THIS TIME WOULD BE WISE. WE'RE STILL IN A VERY DELICATE SITUATION AND I DON'T WANT TO SAY ANYTHING HERE THAT MIGHT JEOPARDIZE THE EFFORT TO OBTAIN THE SAFE RELEASE OF THE THREE STUDENTS. EFFORTS IN THIS DIRECTION ARE GOING FORWARD AND WE ARE HOPEFUL OF AN EARLY SUCCESSFUL OUTCOME. (END PREPARED GUIDANCE)

2. FOLLOWING IS TRANSCRIPT OF Q & A AT JUNE 26 PRESS BRIEFING:

Q. WITH REGARD TO THE KIDNAPPED STUDENTS IN ZAIRE, TANZANIA, WHAT TRANSPIRED INVOLVING THE ZAIRE GUNBOAT THAT OPENED FIRE DURING AN ATTEMPTED RESCUE INVOLVING AMERICAN DIPLOMATS?

A. FIRST, JERRY, WE STILL DON'T HAVE ALL THE DETAILS ON WHAT ACTUALLY OCCURRED. BUT I HAVE BEEN TOLD THAT WE HAVE NO REASON TO BELIEVE THAT THIS ACTION YOU REFER TO TAKEN BY THE ZAIRE FORCES WAS INTENDED TO OBSTRUCT ANY ATTEMPT TO SECURE THE RELEASE OF THE STUDENTS.

SECONDLY, CONTRARY TO PRESS REPORTS, THERE WERE NO U.S. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
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DIPLOMATS INVOLVED IN THAT RESCUE EFFORT.

Q. YOU SAY THERE WERE NO ORDERS TO ATTEMPT A RESCUE.

A. WE HAVE NO INFORMATION THAT THIS ACTION THAT TOOK PLACE -- OF THE ZAIRIAN GUNBOAT -- WE HAVE NO INDICATION THAT THAT WAS INTENDED TO OBSTRUCT THE EFFORTS TO SECURE THE RELEASE OF THE STUDENTS.

Q. DID YOU ASK THE ZAIRE GOVERNMENT ABOUT THIS? DID THEY GIVE YOU ANY ASSURANCES, OR HAVE YOU JUST DONE NOTHING?

A. WELL, I AM SURE WE HAVE BEEN HAVING CONTACTS WITH THE ZAIRIAN GOVERNMENT ON THE WHOLE SUBJECT. WHETHER THIS PARTICULAR POINT HAS BEEN RAISED AND WHAT THE RESPONSE HAS BEEN, I DON'T KNOW.

Q. WHAT IS THE CONDITION OR STATUS OF THE KIDNAPPED STUDENTS AT THIS TIME, IF YOU KNOW?

A. THEY ARE STILL IN CUSTODY. THEY HAVEN'T BEEN RELEASED.

Q. ARE THEY WELL AND SAFE?

A. AS FAR AS WE KNOW.

Q. IS AMBASSADOR VANCE STILL IN ZAIRE?

A. I UNDERSTAND HE IS ON HIS WAY BACK TO WASHINGTON TODAY.

Q. IS THERE ANY CONNECTION WITH THIS KIDNAPPING BUSINESS AND ZAIRE'S - WELL, THE ALLEGATIONS IN ZAIRE THAT THE CIA WAS INVOLVED?

A. NO. I AM NOT AWARE OF ANY LINKAGE BETWEEN THE TWO INCIDENTS.

Q. THERE IS NONE?

A. NOT AS FAR AS I KNOW.

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Q. WHAT IS THE PRESENT WHEREABOUTS OF AMBASSADOR HINTON?

A. THE LAST I KNEW, HE WAS TAKING A BRIEF HOLIDAY IN EUROPE WITH HIS CHILDREN WHO ARE IN SCHOOL IN EUROPE.

KISSINGER

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